

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 02935 122027 Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 NIC-01 AID-20 IO-12 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /174 W

----- 054774

P R 121905 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8283

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2935

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IT SO US

SUBJ: PEDINI VISIT TO SOMALIA

USNATO FOR AMBASSADOR WITMAN

REF: ROME 2676; 2842

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ITALIANS BELIEVE PEDINI VISIT TO SOMALIA
HERALDS SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN ITALIAN/ SOMALI RELATIONS.
ITALIANS BELIEVE SOMALIS SINCERELY WISH TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH US, AMONG OTHER REASONS AS COUNTERBALANCE TO SOVIET
PRESENCE, AND THAT TIME IS RIPE FOR US GESTURE FOR IMPROVEMENT.
ITALIANS MAY RAISE US/ SOMALI RELATIONS DURING ANDREOTTI VISIT
AND SUGGEST RESUMPTION OF US AID. RE BORDER TENSIONS WITH
ETHIOPIA, SOMALIS EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN, SAID ANY INCREASE
IN US MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA COULD MAKE IEG MORE AGGRESS-
IVE, AND ASSERTED THEY (SOMALIS) WOULD NOT PROVOKE SITUATION.
ON INTERNAL SIDE, ITALIANS SEE SIAD AS FIRMLY IN SADDLE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 02935 122027 Z

ADEN AS HIS PRINCIPAL BRAIN- TRUSTER. ON BILATERAL QUESTIONS, ITALIANS AGREED TO FINANCE SALT MINE STUDY, TO REORGANIZE BANANA INDUSTRY AND ENCOURAGE MORE ITALIAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT. ITALIANS ARE SATISFIED THAT PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS ON NATIONALIZED SCHOOLS AND COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED COMPANIES WILL WORK OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN FONMIN UNDER- SECRETARY PEDINI VISITED SOMALIA APRIL 7-11. ON APRIL 12 RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PROVIDED US WITH ACCOUNT OF PEDINI' S IMPRESSIONS BASED PARTICULARLY ON PEDINI' S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD. ACCORDING SOURCE, ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT EXCEEDINGLY WARM AND ITALIANS BELIEVE IT HERALDS NEW, MORE RELAXED AND PRODUCTIVE CHAPTER IN ITALIAN/ SOMALI RELATIONS. OFFICIAL CITED AS EXAMPLE OF SOMALIS' EXTRAORDINARY TREATMENT OF PEDINI FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY SIAD TO VISIT HARGEISA, AND THIS USUALLY RESERVED FOR VISITORS OF MUCH HIGHER RANK. ON INTERNAL SIDE, ITALIANS RECEIVED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT SIAD HAS REASSERTED HIS PRIMACY IN SRC AND THAT MOHAMMAD ADEN, WHOM ITALIANS BELIEVE WILL BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL OF NEW UNIFIED PARTY, IS BRAINS BEHIND SIAD.

3. RE SOMALI/ ETHIOPIAN BORDER SITUATION, SOURCE SAID THIS DISCUSSED ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, WITH SOMALIS EXPRESSING THEIR DEEP CONCERN. SOMALIS STATED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD PERSUADE IEG TO BE MORE REASONABLE ABOUT BORDER SITUATION, BUT ASKED FOR NO RPT NO SPECIFIC ITALIAN OR OTHER COUNTRY INTERVENTION. SIAD COMMENTED THAT ANY INCREASE IN US MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA COULD ENCOURAGE IEG TO KEEP BORDER HEATED UP. ITALIANS BELIEVE SOMALIS SINCERELY DESIRE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL PROBLEM AND WILL REFRAIN FROM PROVOKING SITUATION.

4. SIAD GAVE PEDINI LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF SOVIET/ SOMALIA RELATIONS. IN SUM, HE ASSERTED THAT SOVIET ASSISTANCE HAS NOT RPT NOT WEAKENED SOMALI INDEPENDENCE OR NEUTRALISM. HE NOTED THAT SOMALIS HAD REFUSED ON TWO OCCASIONS TO SIGN FRIENDSHIP TREATY PROFFERED BY SOVIETS. ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT SIAD IS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SIZE OF SOVIET PRESENCE, AND WANTS INCREASED WESTERN COUNTERBALANCE.

5. ON US/ SOMALI RELATIONS, SIAD CONTENTED THAT US DOES NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND SOMALI POSITION. HE INSISTED THAT SOMALIA WISHES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN IT WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 02935 122027 Z

DIMINISH IT SRELATIONS WITH SOVIETS OR FORESAKE ITS SOCIALIST

IDEOLOGY. SIAD REMARKED THAT END OF VIETNAM WAR SHOULD MAKE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH US EASIER. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT RESUMPTION OF US AID WOULD FACILITATE IMPROVED RELATIONS. ACCORDING OFFICIAL, SIAD CHARGED GOI WITH EXPLAINING SOMALI ATTITUDES TO USG AND FRG EMPHASIZING INDEPENDENCE OF REGIME AND ITS NEUTRALIST ORIENTATION, BUT ALSO STRESSING ITS REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS WHICH REQUIRE UNDERSTANDING. ITALIANS CONVINCED THAT SIAD SINCERE IN DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION WITHIN SRC. ITALIANS BELIEVE SIAD ALSO WISHES TO SHOW SOMALI PUBLIC THAT HE CAN ACHIEVE BALANCE IN SOMALIA'S RELATIONS WITH GREAT POWERS, AND THAT HE NOT RPT NOT SOVIET PUPPET. IN ITALIAN VIEW, THESE ARE SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN HIS GENUINE DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ON BILATERAL QUESTIONS DISCUSSED DURING PEDINI VISIT, OFFICIAL CITED ITALIAN AGREEMENT TO FINANCE STUDY ON HAFUN SALT MINES, AGREEMENT TO REORGANIZE BANANA INDUSTRY AND UNDERTAKING TO ENCOURAGE MORE ITALIAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN SOMALIA. SOURCE SAID ITALIANS REASSURED THAT PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS ON NATIONALIZED ITALIAN SCHOOLS AND COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED COMPANIES WOULD WORK OUT SATISFACTORILY.

S

E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME02935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730441/aaaagzq.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971229
Subject: PEDINI VISIT TO SOMALIA
TAGS: PFOR, IT, SO, US
To: ADDIS ABABA
BONN
EUR
MOGADISHU
MOSCOW
NAIROBI
NATO

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005